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ARCHÆOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.¹

MOUND AND OTHER EXPLORATIONS BY MR. WARREN K. MOORE-HEAD.—On the high wooded hills bordering the Little Miami River in central Greene County are a number of mounds. One is the large mound on the farm of Mr. J. B. Lucas, three miles west of Xenia. Up to June, 1885, this mound had never been thoroughly explored. It was about twenty feet in height with a slightly flattened summit, perhaps seven feet across, and sixty feet in diameter at the base. Four good sized trees grew out of the sides, one of which was an oak perhaps ninety years old.

This mound was opened in June, 1885. A shaft was sunk, from the summit downwards, twelve feet, but nothing of interest found. We began a trench on the outer edge of the east side, and carried it to the center; then extended the trench from the summit down until these two met. Completing this work, we caved in the sides, and threw back the earth taken out, thus restoring the mound nearly to its former shape.

The trench from the outer edge of the mound to the center was about twenty-five feet in length. For the first ten feet of this distance the earth was fine clay, not mixed with ashes. At twelve feet from the outer circumference was a bed of ashes and charcoal, perhaps two feet in thickness, and sticks of the half-charred wood three feet long and quite well preserved were taken out. These had been laid with regularity and were probably covered with earth before the fire had consumed them. At sixteen feet a thin irregular stratum of ordinary river sand was found, three or four inches in thickness.

Immediately following this sand layer, and extending upwards possibly three feet, was a mass of hard, burned clay. When this was reached we stopped work in the trench and went to the shaft above. We had not thrown out a foot of earth until we came to a mass of charcoal and ashes. This occurred without intermission for two feet or more when we came upon a layer of pure clay, nearly two feet in thickness. Immediately below this was the thin stratum of sand, and under this sand, resting on the "altar" of burnt clay, were five skeletons much decomposed. Of these, the teeth and small fragments of the skull and short sections of the femur and tibia were all that could be preserved. The skeletons were buried side by side; the heads to the south. At the feet were fragments of a clay urn, peculiarly shaped. It had been broken into seven or eight pieces, but could be easily restored. It was of the "basket-moulded" pattern, having plain marks of the basket reeds

¹ This department is edited by Thomas Wilson, Esq., Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

on the surface—a pattern rare in Ohio. Save a few perforated bear teeth and three rough spear-heads, no other relics were found. The excavation from both summit and base were carried through the burnt clay to the original level below. The clay contained fragments of calcined bones evidently of animals such as the deer, bear, and raccoon.

The opposite side of the mound (the west side) has since been opened by parties living near, but nothing found.

TWO INDIAN CEMETERIES NEAR ROMNEY, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, W. VA.—Eight miles up the south fork of the Potomac River from Romney, W. Va., is an island owned by Mr. I. Pancake, and on this island once stood a large Indian village. A flood some two years ago cut a channel through the island and exposed to view the skeletons of many human beings, as well as relics and objects of aboriginal manufacture. Recent newspaper reports attracted Mr. Moorehead's attention, and he visited the spot for the purpose of investigation.

With a force of several Irishmen, work was commenced the morning of January 16 '89. A large part of the island was carefully dug over and the earth examined to a depth of four feet. It was found that over one-half of the bodies originally interred had been washed out by the flood; those that remained were scarcely two feet below the surface, consequently when the island was cultivated the bones would be much disturbed. Only five skeletons could be taken out entire, those at a depth of three feet. With two of them were buried several triangular arrow-heads, a clay pot, whole, (not decorated) and fragmentary bones of deer, ground hog, and turtle. With the others nothing was found. On the surface of this island we picked up many beads, arrow-heads, broken pottery, split bones, carved bones, unfinished celts, etc. The space occupied by the evidences of Indian occupation was about 150x200 yards. The most interesting find met with during the excavation of these graves was the discovery of a large ash pit, about six by seven feet, five feet in depth. In this there were many deer bones, broken pottery, ashes, charcoal, etc. There was no order observed, the accumulation seemed to result from a hearth or wigwam. The only object found in the pit was a long sharp bone awl, a fine specimen. A part of a skeleton (said by some to be Ox, by others Bison) was taken from the bottom of this pit. The bones showed action of fire, and many of them were broken into fragments.

Two days were spent in examining another village site, on the north side of the river twelve miles below. This was smaller than the one above mentioned, but as it had been little disturbed we found more skeletons, etc. This site does not exceed 200x450 feet. In a space of 60x100 feet we took out fifteen skeletons in a fairly good state of preservation. All were buried singly and extended, save

four. These four were heaped together ; the skull of one was missing, the arms of another gone, and the leg of a third absent.

Four others had nothing whatever placed in their graves. Two of the remaining seven had broken pottery and a few arrow-heads with them. The others were buried nearly with their heads to the South. With the first were 62 bone beads and from their curved position plainly showed they had originally been on a string. The second had a neat little urn with handles, and containing a carved mussel shell, placed by his head. This pot was seven inches high, four inches in diameter, and was decorated with spiral lines. The third personage had nearly 300 glass beads between the ulna and radius. A small iron tomahawk near his hand showed furthermore that he had known the "long-knives."

The fourth Indian had a copper plate (Lake Superior copper) over his head, four and a half inches long, two inches wide ; perforated near one end. Beneath his head were twenty-four broken quartz fragments about the size of an egg.

The fifth individual has a small copper earring, a tip to an arrow made of copper, and three large glass beads. The skulls of three of these five were taken out nearly whole. The average depth of the interment of these bodies did not exceed two and a half feet.

The owner of the land presented the writer with a copper plate and a stone tomahawk (greenstone) from the same spot. He claimed that after a heavy rain twelve circular spots about ten feet in diameter could be plainly seen in the field, that these spots had a reddish color, and were arranged in two rows. He further said that he thought them burnt spots of ground where the wigwams stood. That the field had been cultivated only a few years which accounted for the spot being still discernable. The bodies found by myself were *all under these spots*. *No skeletons* were exhumed in ground *not included* in these reddish circular places.

After the work here was completed, a mound on one of the high hills overlooking the valley was examined. Its dimensions were 35 x 45 feet diameter and six feet high. It was one mile north of Romney. The material was half stone, half earth. Seven men were all day in digging it through ; the whole structure was removed. Nothing was found save one decayed skeleton. This skeleton had five large mica plates placed where his breast had once been, a copper bead has served as an earring, a slate ornament as a breast-plate, and five black serrated arrow-heads as weapons. The mica was 7x10 inches in size. The ornament 5x2, with two perforations.
